

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A fiber optic cable, comprising:

an outer layer;
at least one optical fiber disposed inside said outer layer;
at least one gel-swellable portion proximate to an inner surface of said outer layer; and
a water resistant gel positioned adjacent to said gel-swellable portion and disposed between said outer layer and said optical fiber;
wherein said gel-swellable portion has a density of less than 0.90 g/cc and said outer layer has a density of at least 0.90 g/cc.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion is a continuous layer surrounding said at least one optical fiber.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion has an uneven thickness.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion has a smooth surface.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion has at least one groove in a surface of said at least one gel-swellable portion.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion is made from at least one longitudinally running strip.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, further comprising a second gel-swellable portion positioned between said gel-swellable portion and said at least one optical fiber.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion has a corrugated surface which is adjacent to said gel.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein at least one gel-swellable portion contacts said inner surface of said outer layer.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion is one of a copolymer or terpolymer of polyethelene.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said gel-swellable portion swells more than 10% at 85°C.

12. (ORIGINAL) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said gel is a polyolefin oil based gel.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion is a polyolefin swellable material.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein the material of said at least one gel-swellable portion is softer than the material of said outer layer.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A fiber optic cable, comprising:
an outer layer;
at least one optical fiber disposed inside said outer layer;
a gel-swellable portion contacting an outer surface of said optical fiber; and
a water resistant gel positioned adjacent to said gel-swellable portion;
wherein said gel swellable portion absorbs at least some of a said gel, and wherein said gel-swellable portion swells more than 10% at 85°C.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellable portion is a continuous layer surrounding said at least one optical fiber.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellable portion has an uneven thickness.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellable portion has a smooth surface.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellable portion has at least one groove in a surface of said gel-swellable portion.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellable portion is made from at least one longitudinally running strip.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, further comprising a second gel-swellable portion positioned between said gel-swellable portion and said outer jacket.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellable portion has a corrugated surface which is adjacent to said gel.

23. (ORIGINAL) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellable layer has a density less than 0.90 g/cc.

24. (ORIGINAL) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellable layer is one of a copolymer or terpolymer of polyethelene.

25. (CANCELLED)

26. (ORIGINAL) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel is a polyolefin oil based gel.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellable portion is a polyolefin swellable material.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein the material of said gel-swellable portion is softer than the material of said outer layer.

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A fiber optic cable, comprising:
an outer layer;
at least one optical fiber;

a water resistant gel disposed between said at least one optical fiber and said outer layer;
and

at least one gel-swellable portion proximate to one of an inner surface of said outer layer
and an outer surface of said optical fiber;

wherein said gel-swellable portion is made from a material softer than said one of said
inner surface and said outer surface to which said gel-swellable portion is proximate to, and
wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion has a density less than 0.90 g/cc.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein
said at least one gel-swellable portion is a continuous layer.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein
said at least one gel-swellable portion has an uneven thickness.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein
said at least one gel-swellable portion has a smooth surface.

33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein
said at least one gel-swellable portion has a groove in a surface of said at least one gel-swellable
portion.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion is made from at least one longitudinally running strip.

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, further comprising a second gel-swellable portion positioned between said at least one gel-swellable portion and the other of said outer surface and said inner surface.

36. (CANCELLED)

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion is one of a copolymer or terpolymer of polyethelene.

38. (CANCELLED)

39. (ORIGINAL) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said gel is a polyolefin oil based gel.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion is a polyolefin swellable material.

41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion has a corrugated surface.

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said optical fiber is part of an optical fiber ribbon.

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion swells more than 10% at 85°C.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion contacts said one of an inner surface of said outer layer and an outer surface of said optical fiber.